

REMARKS**I. General**

The issues outstanding in the instant application are as follows:

- Claims 1-11, 17, 18,19 and 26-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hagen, U.S. Pat. No. 3,215,579 (hereinafter *Hagen*) in view of Jaisle, U.S. Pat. No. 4,267,240 or Jaisle, U.S. Pat. No. 4,243,461 (collectively indicated hereinafter as *Jaisle*, or referred to separately as *Jaisle* '240 and *Jaisle* '461); and
- Claims 12-16 and 20-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants wish to express their gratitude for the indication of allowance of claims 12-16 and 20-25, and respectfully request a similar indication of allowance for at least claim 34, as it includes limitations similar to those of claim 12. However, Applicants hereby traverse the outstanding rejections of the claims, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections in light of the amendments and arguments contained herein. Claims 1 - 38 remain pending in this application.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11, 17, 18,19 and 26-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Hagen* in view of *Jaisle*. In response, Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 27, 31 and 36 for purposes of clarification, by including a limitation speaking to leaving a first side of the kraft paper sheet unpenetrated by the phenolic resin, or the like.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art cited must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See M.P.E.P.

§2143. Without conceding the first and second criteria, Applicants respectfully assert that, with respect to the claims as amended, the outstanding rejection cannot satisfy the third criteria.

The Office Action admits that “Hagen does not specifically teach that phenolic resin should be applied after sodium alginate.” The Office Action attempts to cure this deficiency by introducing *Jaisle*, which the Office Action alleges to teach:

that using resin to impregnate paper before sodium alginate is very costly. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to coat a layer of sodium alginate on one surface of the paper then impregnate the paper with phenolic resin, since such would lower the cost of production of the laminate.

However, this combination, as presented, does not teach or suggest all limitations of the claims, as amended.

Independent claims 1, 27, 31 and 36 have each been amended, for purposes of clarification, to include a limitation speaking to “leaving said first side of said kraft paper sheet unpenetrated by said phenolic resin,” or the like. *Hagen* (at column 4, lines 33-35) and *Jaisle* '240 (at column 3, lines 42 and 43) teaches that the kraft paper is impregnated with phenolic resin. In contrast, *Jaisle* '461 (at column 3, lines 20 and 21) teaches the use of “phenol-formaldehyde resin-free paper.” Thus neither *Hagen* nor *Jaisle*, teach “coating a first side of a kraft paper sheet with a release agent...and coating an opposite side of said kraft paper sheet and penetrating said kraft paper sheet with phenolic resin, leaving said first side of said kraft paper sheet unpenetrated by said phenolic resin,” as recited by independent claim 1, as amended, or similar limitations of independent claims 27, 31 and 36, particularly as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully asserts that for the above reasons independent claims 1, 27, 31 and 36, particularly as amended, are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of record.

Claims 2-11, 17, 18,19 and 26 ultimately depend from independent claim 1; claims 28-30 ultimately depend from independent claims 27; claims 32-35 depend directly from independent claim 31; and claims 37 and 38 depend directly from independent claims 36. Thus, each of claims 2-11, 17, 18,19, 26, 28- 30, 32-35, 37 and 38 inherit all limitations of

their respective base claims, independent claims 1, 27, 31 and 36. Therefore, for at least the reasons advanced above in addressing the obviousness rejections of independent claims 1, 27, 31 and 36, each of claims 2-11, 17, 18, 19, 26, 28-30, 32-35, 37 and 38 sets forth features and limitations not recited by the combination of *Hagen* and *Jaisle*. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that at least for the above reasons claims 2-11, 17, 18, 19, 26, 28-30, 32-35, 37 and 38 are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of record.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 47526/P007C1/10304861 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. The Examiner is respectfully encouraged to call the below listed attorney if he can be of assistance in expediting prosecution of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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